

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /089 W  
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R 121618Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7377

USINFO WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 4/12/75

TAGS: PINS, LE, IS

SUBJECT: LEBANESE REACTION TO KIRYAT SHEMONA INCIDENT

SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY LOCAL REACTION TO KIRYAT SHEMONA INCIDENT  
RANGES

FROM ENTHUSIASM AND EVEN GLOATING AMONG FEDAYEEN AND THEIR  
SYMPATHIZERS (INCLUDING LEFTIST, PRO-FEDAYEEN PRESS) TO  
EFFORTS AT JUSTIFICATION, EXONERATION AND/OR RATIONLIZATION ON  
PART OF LEBANESE OFFICIALDOM, PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT PRESS IN  
GENERAL. WE HAVE YET TO SEE MUCH EXPRESSION OF REGRET OR  
COMPASSION OVER FATE OF CIVILIAN VICTIMS IN LOCAL PRESS. AMONG  
THE PUBLIC, THERE IS SHOCK AND DISMAY OVER LOSS OF LIFE,  
AS WELL AS WIDESPREAD OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE APPREHENSION THAT SOME  
KIND OF ISRAELI RETALIATION IS IN THE OFFING, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW  
OF STRONG STATEMENTS BY MRS. MEIR. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE CIRCUMSTANTIAL

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EVIDENT TO CONTRARY, GOL SPOKESMEN AND MOST SEGMENTS OF

PUBLIC OPINION CLING TO BELIEF THAT OPERATION WAS MOUNTED BY FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS OPERATING ENTIRELY WITHIN "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" (WHICH, FOR MOMENT AT LEAST, EVIDENTLY INCLUDE ISRAEL PROPER), THAT FEDAYEEN STATIONED IN LEBANON WERE NOT INVOLVED, AND THAT LEBANON THEREFORE CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED. END SUMMARY.

1. GOL EFFORTS TO DISSOCIATE ITSELF FROM APRIL 11 KIRYAT SHEMONA INCIDENT HAVE SO FAR ADHERED CLOSELY TO TRANSPARENTLY SILLY LINE PROPOUNDED BY PRIMIN SOLH LAST EVENING (BEIRUT 4271 NOTAL)-- I.E., THAT ISRAELI ACCUSATIONS RE LEBANESE INVOLVEMENT ARE BASELESS AND INTENDED FOR ISRAELI DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, THAT SUCH ACCUSATIONS ARE STANDARD ISRAELI PROPAGANDA IN SITUATIONS OF THIS KIND, AND THAT GOL HAS "PROOF" (IN FORM OF ASSURANCES RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM 'ARAFAT) THAT ALL FEDAYEEN OPERATIONS ARE NOW BEING MOUNTED FROM WITHIN "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES". MINDEF MAALOUF HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO INSIST THAT GOL CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INCIDENTS OCCURRING ON ANOTHER STATE'S TERRITORY. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO GENUINE FEELINGS OF SORROW AND CONCERN VOICED TO US PRIVATELY BY VARIOUS LEBANESE PERSONALITIES (E.G., FORMER PRIMIN KARAME AND EX-PRES CHAMOUN) WE DETECT FROM THEIR REMARKS AND FORM OFFICIAL GOL STATEMENTS EVIDENCE OF CONSIDERABLE GUILT-CONSCIOUSNESS OVER KIRYAT SHEMONA INCIDENT, A FEELING WHICH DOUBTLESS SERVES TO HEIGHTEN FEARS OF IMPENDING ISRAELI RETALIATION AND HAS PROMPTED GOL TO ORDER THAT LEBANESE ARMY UNITS BE PLACED ON FULL ALERT.

2. FEDAYEEN SPOKESMEN WERE QUICK TO VOICE SUPPORT FOR KIRYAT SHEMONA RAID, CLAIMING IT IS SIGN THAT PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT WITHIN "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" REMAINS ACTIVE FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH REGARDLESS OF CHANGING ME CONDITIONS. PLO (Wafa) NEWS AGENCY PRAISED OPERATION AS PROOF OF FEDAYEEN CAPABILITIES TO OPERATE THEIR HOMELAND, AND SA'QA'S ZOHAYR MUHSEN TERMED IT "BEGINNING OF NEW EAR" IN HISTORY OF PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE. PFLP/ GC SPOESMAN AND REPS OF OTHER DIE-HARD FEDAYEEN GROUPS (E.G., PFLP AND IRAQI-BACKED ALF) ARE MOUNTING WHAT APPEARS TO BE CONCERTED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO PAINT OPERATION AS PROOF OF POPULAR OPPOSITION TO CURRENT DIRECTION OF ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT AND TO CLAIM THAT IT IS ONLY BEGINNING OF SUCCESSFUL FEDAYEEN MOVES TO ABORT IT. COMMENT: AT SAME TIME, WE UNDERSTAND THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEDAYEEN APPREHENSION RE LIKELIHOOD OF IDF REPRISALS IS AT FEVER-PITCH AND THAT ALL COMMANDO FORCES IN REFUGEE CAMPS AND ELSEWHERE IN LEBANON HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM.

3. REACTION TO INCIDENT IN LOCAL LEFTIST AND PRO-FEDAYEEN PRESS IS PREDICTABLY ENTHUSIASTIC, WITH FULSOME DESCRIPTIONS OF "DARING OPERATION" CARRIED OUT INSIDE ISRAEL BY PALESTINIAN "HERO-MARTYRS" IN REVENGE FOR LAST YEAR'S IDF RAID ON BEIRUT. MOST OF THEIR

EDITORIALS REFLECT INFLUENCE OF PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN BY FEDAYEEN  
DIE-HARDS MENTIONED ABOVE. INDEPENDENT AND RIGHT-WING PAPERS  
ARE GENERALLY MORE RESTRAINED, ALTHOUGH THEIR EDITORIALS ALSO TEND  
TO FOCUS ON CONNECTION BETWEEN KIRYAT SHEMONA ATTACK AND LAST  
YEAR'S IDF RAID. VIRTUALLY ALL PAPERS EMPHASIZE OTHER PAST  
ISRAELI "TERRORIST CRIMES" IN JUSTIFYING PALESTINIAN RESORT TO USE  
OF TERROR WITHIN ISRAEL. FOR EXAMPLE, LEFTIST ASH SHAAB, WHILE  
STATING "NO ONE CAN EXCUSE OR REJOICE IN DEATHS OF INNOCENT MEN,  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN" IN "UGLY CRIME" WHICH OCCURRED AT  
KIRYAT SHEMONA, GOES ON TO RECALL THAT "ISRAELI HANDS ARE SOAKED  
IN PALESTINIAN BLOOD FROM DEIR YASSIN TO BEIRUT" AND TO HOLD GOI  
RESPONSIBLE, "FIRST AND LAST, FOR ALL SORROWS AND CRIMES WHICH  
HAVE BEFALLEN PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT  
AN NAHAR, "ISRAEL, AMERICA AND WHOLE WORLD KNOW...THAT  
LEBANON, ITS GOVT AND PEOPLE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR KIRYAT  
SHEMONA OPERATION....MRS. MEIR KNOWS REAL SITUATION EXISTING  
BETWEEN LEBANON AND FEDAYEEN... HER ACCUSATIONS ARE CONSISTENT  
WITH ISRAELI TRADITION OF VIOLENCE... WHICH SHE THINKS WILL SILENCE  
PALESTINIAN CAUSE...US STATE DEPT DID WILL BY NOT ADOPTING ALL  
HER ALLEGATIONS AS ITS OWN." ALL PRESS TREATMENT CONTAINS  
WARNING THAT ISRAELI RETALIATION CAN BE EXPECTED. GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, LE, IS, FEDAYEEN  
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**Type:** TE  
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